ORDINANCES AND BY-LAWS

OF THE

EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

FOR THE

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

ORGANIZED AT THE CONVENTION HELD AT TORONTO, 11th and 12th JUNE, 1889.

OFFICERS OF THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL:

Chairman, THE REV. PRINCIPAL CAVEN.

Vice-Chairman, J. K. MACDONALD.

Treasurer, S. C. DUNCAN-CLARK,
18 and 20 Toronto St., Toronto.

Secretary, EDW'D. DOUGLAS ARMOUR,
15 Toronto St., Toronto.

TORONTO:
HUNTER, ROSE, & CO., PRINTERS.
1889.

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15 Toronto St., Toronto.

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THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

(Elected by the Convention.)

E. D. Armour,
Rev. Principal Austin.
Dr. Bogart,
Ald. Wm. Bell,
The Bishop of Algoma,
Rev. Geo. Burson,
Rev. A. C. Courtice,
S. C. Duncan-Clark,
Rev. Principal Caven,
John Carnegie,
Mayor Campbell, (Brampton),
John Charlton, M.P.,
C. Ferguson,
Alexander Fraser,
W. W. Fitzgerald,
John Gaskin,
George Hay,
J. L. Hughes,
W. H. Howland,
James Henry, M.D.,
Rev. Elmore Harris,
Rev. Dr. W. J. Hunter,
H. A. E. Kent,
Rev. J. Langtry,
Rev. Dr. Laidlaw,
Mayor Lumsden, (Galt),
W. Morton,
John Milne,
W. Murray,
E. Martin, Q.C.,
D. L. McLean,
Rev. Dr. McMullen,
Wm. McCraney,
W. J. McMaster,
J. K. Macdonald,
John S. McClelland,
J. J. Maclaren, Q.C.,
Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, B.D.,
D'Alton McCarthy, Q.C. M.P.,
Robert Newman,
H. O'Brien,
Colonel O'Brien, M.P.,
S. B. Pollard, M.D.,
George H. Robinson,
J. T. Small,
George Stewart,
W. E. Smallfield,
Rev. Dr. Torrance,
Mayor Taylor, (London),
Rev. Dr. Wild,
Rev. W. F. Wilson,

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Of the Provincial Council.

The Reverend Principal Caven, *Chairman.*
J. K. Macdonald, *Vice Chairman.*
S. C. Duncan-Clark, *Treasurer.*
E. Douglas Armour, *Secretary.*

Members of the Executive:

Ald. W. Bell,
Rev. Geo. Burson,
John Carnegie,
Rev. A. C. Courtice,
John Charlton, M.P.,
Mayor Campbell, (Brampton).
Alexander Fraser,
John Gaskin,
George Hay,
J. L. Hughes,
W. H. Howland,
H. A. E. Kent,
Rev. J. Langtry,
W. Morton,
W. Murray,
E. Martin, Q.C.,
Rev. W. Moore, D.D.
Rev. G. M. Milligan,
Rev. D. J. Macdonnell,
Wm. McCraney,
W. J. McMaster,
John S. McClelland,
J. J. Maclaren, Q.C.,
D'Alton McCarthy, Q.C., M.P.,
Robt. Newman,
H. O'Brien,
Rev. Dr. Potts,
Dr. S. B. Pollard,
J. T. Small,
Mayor Taylor, (London.)
Rev. W. F. Wilson,

THE

Equal Rights Association

FOR THE

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

At mass meetings held in Toronto in the months of March and April, 1889, a Citizens' Committee was appointed to use every effort to secure the disallowance, voidance, or repeal of the Jesuits Estates Act, and also for the purpose of securing and maintaining perfect religious equality throughout the entire Dominion, and preventing ecclesiastical dictation in civil affairs.

As a result of the action of this Committee, meetings were held largely throughout the Province of Ontario, and delegates were duly appointed to attend a convention which was held at Toronto on the 11th and 12th of June, 1889. Over 800 duly accredited delegates from all parts of the Province of Ontario were present, as well as visiting delegates from the Provinces of Quebec, British Columbia, Manitoba, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

At this Convention an organization was formed with the name of "The Equal Rights Association for the Province of Ontario."

The accompanying resolutions were adopted as the principles of future action, and the accompanying Ordinances and By-laws were adopted as the Constitution of the Association.

The Convention recommended that steps should be taken for the formation of a Dominion Association on the same lines as those of the Provincial organization.

THE RESOLUTIONS

ADOPTED BY THE CONVENTION.

I.

That this Convention desires to record its conviction that the incorporation of the Jesuits and the passing of the Act respecting the settlement of the Jesuits' Estates by the Legislature of the Province of Quebec, the course of the Government of the Dominion in leaving these Acts to their operation, and finally the rejection, by an immense majority, of the resolution moved in the House of Commons for the disallowance of the last mentioned Act, have brought forcibly home to Canadians the controlling influence which Ultramontanism has obtained amongst us, and the urgent need of organizing for the defence of our civil and religious liberties, and this meeting of delegates elected from and representing all parts of the Province of Ontario, with the assistance of representatives from other Provinces, heartily approves of the calling of this Convention for the furthering of this great end.

II.

We most emphatically condemn both the Act incorporating the Jesuits and the Jesuits' Estates Act, on the grounds (amongst others) that the Jesuit Society is an alien association hostile to free institutions, and that the latter Act, in assuming to recognize the right of the Pope to interfere in the manner referred to in the Act in the affairs of Canada, is a flagrant disregard of the sovereign rights of the Queen and in clear violation of the Supremacy Act, a fundamental law of the Empire enacted especially for the preservation of the prerogative of the Crown against the encroachments of the Papacy, and is further a violation of the trust under which the said estates were transferred by the Crown to the provincial authorities for the purpose of education exclusively.

III.

We pledge ourselves to continue our exertions to procure the disallowance, voidance, or repeal of the Jesuits' Estates Act, and to use all constitutional means for securing the full establishment of perfect religious equality before the law among all classes of people throughout the Dominion.

IV.

We deem it essential to the peace and highest welfare of our country, and to the maintenance of good government, that the line between the civil and ecclesiastical authority should be clearly defined and should be respected in all legislation and administration, both of the Dominion and the several Provinces thereof. While the Church is entitled to entire freedom and protection in its own domain, which embraces all that is properly spiritual, the State must have full control in all temporal matters, and it cannot, without abnegating its just authority, ask or accept permission from any ecclesiastical persons or organizations, or from any extraneous body whatever, to exercise its own functions and perform its own duties.

V.

While in no way desirous of limiting the educational facilities of our French fellow-citizens, and while willing to make all reasonable concessions to their convenience, yet being at the same time profoundly convinced of the importance of having the one English language common to all the people of Ontario, and recognizing the fact that the use of the French language, as the language of instruction, tends to perpetuate evils which we are now seeking to remove, we urge that steps be taken to secure as speedily as possible (*a*) that English shall be the language of instruction in all public schools in Ontario (*b*) that every teacher in a public school shall be able to use the English language efficiently in imparting instruction, and (*c*) that no text books shall be used except those authorized by the Department of Education; and that the law in this respect should be strictly enforced.

VI.

We record our approval of our national system of public schools in this Province, and we insist that every ratepayer should be deemed a supporter of the public schools, unless he himself of his own free will signifies his desire to be ranked as a supporter of separate schools, and that the Act should be so amended as to be explicit on this point.

VII.

In the exercise of the franchise we will faithfully endeavour to give effect to the views set forth in these resolutions, and we will not aid in returning to Parliament or the Legislature any candidate who will not pledge himself to support the principles above enunciated.

VIII.

In order to secure united and persistent action in seeking to remedy such evils as those pointed out, and to guard against the political encroachments of Ultramontanism, this Convention resolves that an association be formed and to this organization we pledge our united support.

IX.

This Convention approves of the action of the Toronto Citizens' Committee and others in circulating and promoting the petitions to his Excellency the Governor-General against the Jesuits' Estates Act, and pledges itself to promote and further in every way the signature and presentation of petitions against the said Act.

ORDINANCES AND BY-LAWS

OF THE

EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

FOR THE

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

1. This organization shall be called "The Equal Rights Association for the Province of Ontario."

2. The principles and objects of this Association are those set out in the resolutions adopted at a general convention for the Province of Ontario, held at Toronto on the 11th and 12th of June, 1889.

3. The Association shall consist of (*a*) Members, (*b*) Branches, (*c*) District Councils, (*d*) The Provincial Council, (*e*) The Executive Committee of the Provincial Council.

4. Those persons only shall be enrolled as members who are prepared to promote the objects of the Association.

5. Branches may be established in every incorporated village, township, town, or city, or in the wards of towns and cities. They shall be styled as follows:—"The Equal Rights Association for the Province of Ontario (Hamilton Branch) (York Township Branch), etc. No.—." Each branch shall have a number assigned to it by the Provincial Council, which it shall always retain with

its name. It shall have a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer, and executive committee, to be annually elected by the branch, who shall conduct the business of the branch.

6. In every county set apart for municipal purposes (including the towns and cities therein), there may be formed a district council to be known as "The District Council for the County of ——," composed of the chairman, secretary, and three delegates chosen from each branch in such county, and having its office at the county town of such county, or at such other place as the majority of the branches in the county shall select.

7. Such District Council may appoint from among its members an Executive Committee (of such number and having such a quorum as it shall think proper) chosen from among those members of such council best able to attend the meetings of the Executive Committee, and to this Executive Committee the District Council may delegate all or any of its powers and functions. District Councils may appoint officers from among their own body and a secretary. District Councils shall be distinguished by name and number, as in the case of branches.

8. The Provincial Council, having its central office at Toronto, shall be composed of:—

(1.) Fifty members, to be elected by the present Provincial Convention, and who shall thereafter be elected at each succeeding Provincial Convention of the Association.

(2.) The chairman and secretary of each District Council together with three delegates, to be annually elected by such District Council.

(3.) Twenty-five additional members to be annually elected by the Provincial Council.

(4.) A chairman, vice-chairman, a secretary, and a treasurer, who shall be elected annually by the Council.

(5.) The Council shall have power to fill up vacancies as they arise.

9. The Provincial Council shall appoint officials, have control over all matters relating to the Association, have power to make ordinances, take all steps necessary for the prosecution of the principles of the Association and the furtherance of its objects. It shall also have the conduct and expenditure of the funds of the Association. All motions for any subsequent Provincial Convention must be submitted to the Council for approval not later than 14 days before the day appointed for the meeting of the Convention. At all meetings of the Provincial Council 20 shall form a quorum.

10. (*a*) The Provincial Council shall annually elect from among its members an Executive Committee of thirty (of whom seven shall form a quorum), which shall exercise all such powers and functions of the Provincial Council as may be delegated to them.

(*b*) The Executive Committee shall have power at any time to call a meeting of the Provincial Council.

(*c*) The Executive Committee may elect each year fifteen members to be added to its numbers, who shall be eligible for re-election at the end of each year.

(*d*) The Executive Committee shall have power to fill up vacancies occurring during the year.

(*e*) In the event of the Provincial Council not meeting for more than a year at any time the officers and the thirty members of the Executive Committee elected by the Provincial Council shall hold office until the next meeting of the Provincial Council, electing, however, annually, the fifteen members above mentioned in clause *c*.

BY-LAWS FOR BRANCHES

OF THE

EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

FOR THE

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

1. This branch shall be styled "The Equal Rights Association for the Province of Ontario (Hamilton Branch), (York Township Branch), No.—," and shall consist of all those members of the Association who shall desire to join the branch.

2. The officers of the branch shall be a chairman, vice-chairman, treasurer, and secretary, and not less than five other executive councillors, all of whom shall be elected annually at the general meeting of the branch.

3. The officers of the branch shall hold their respective offices for one year only, but shall be eligible for re-election. If any vacancy occur in any of the above-mentioned offices, it shall be filled up at the next ordinary meeting of the branch.

4. The chairman shall be entitled to preside at all meetings of the branch, and shall have the general superintendence of its affairs; and he may at any time summon an extraordinary meeting of the branch. In his absence his duties shall devolve on the vice-chairman, if present, or one of the executive councillors in order of seniority, but in the event of none of the said councillors being present, the meeting shall elect its own chairman.

5. The Executive Council shall have the management of the branch, the conduct of its business, and the general control of its action. It shall be the duty of the Executive Council to subdivide the district allotted to the branch by the Council; to assign the various sub-districts among the different members of the branch, direct their labours, receive their reports, and furnish to the branch when necessary an account of the progress of its work. They shall also assist in the arrangement of public meetings and other assemblies in which the branch may be directly interested.

6. The treasurer shall have charge of the funds of the branch, and shall keep its accounts in proper books to be provided for that purpose. At each annual meeting of the branch, and whenever called upon by the Executive Council, he shall present an audited account of all pecuniary transactions since the last annual meeting. If he resign or be removed from his office he shall cease to be a member of the Executive Council of the branch. All orders for the payment of money shall be signed by the chairman or his deputy, and countersigned by the secretary.

7. There shall be two auditors, who shall be elected at the ordinary meeting immediately preceding the annual meeting, and they shall hold their office for the year only.

8. The secretary shall have charge of all the property of the branch except its funds; he shall summon and attend all meetings of the branch and of the Executive Council, and committees thereof, and take minutes of the same in a book provided for that purpose; he shall also keep in another book a register of the officers and members of the branch, and furnish a return of the members of the branch to the secretary of the Provincial Council at Toronto half-yearly, not later than the 15th January and 15th July in each year, and shall collect dues and hand them to the treasurer; he shall further make a half-yearly report not later than the above dates to the Provincial Council of the work and progress of the branch, and at its meetings shall assist the chairman in the performance of his duties. He shall also in the absence of the chairman have power at the request of two members of the Council to call meetings of the Council for the trans-

action of special business. If he resign or be removed from his office he shall cease to be a member of the Executive Council of the branch.

9. Special meetings may be summoned either on the sole authority of the chairman or on a written requisition addressed to the secretary by not less than five members of the branch.

10. The annual meeting of the branch for the election of officers, reception of the treasurer's account, and the secretary's report, shall be held on or about the 1st January. Of this meeting one week's notice at least shall be given to each member, and no other business beyond that specified shall be in each year transacted unless the same mentioned notice shall have been given to the secretary and the nature of the business particularly stated.

11. At all meetings, whether ordinary or special, five members shall form a quorum.

12. No visitor shall be admitted to any meeting, except by permission of the presiding officer.

13. Voting on all questions shall be by a show of hands, or, if the branch so decide, by voting papers filled up by those present, and the chairman shall have a casting vote.

14. Any alteration in or addition to these By-laws must be duly proposed and seconded at some ordinary meeting of the branch, but the proposed alteration or addition shall not be discussed or voted on till the next meeting after that at which it was introduced.

BY-LAWS FOR DISTRICT COUNCILS

OF THE

EQUAL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

FOR THE

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

1. In every county of the Province of Ontario set apart for municipal purposes there may be formed a District Council to be known as "The County of ——— District Council."

2. (*a*) The council shall consist of the chairman and the secretary of each branch in the county, and three delegates from each branch, to be elected annually.

(*b*) The council may also elect annually members to serve thereon, provided that such members belong to branches within the county and do not exceed in number one-half of the members of the Council under above section 2 (*a*).

3. The officers of the Council shall consist of a chairman, a secretary and a treasurer. Such officers shall be elected annually. The Council may also elect annually a vice-chairman.

4. The Council may fill up any vacancy in its members or officers occurring during the year.

5. Meetings of the Council may be summoned at any time by the chairman or by three members of the Council.

6. The Council shall exercise a general supervision over all the branches in its county as to the work done by them.

7. The Council shall report to the Secretary of the Provincial Council from time to time as to the formation of branches within the county, and generally as to the best means of promoting the objects and work of the Association within such county.

8. Such District Councils may adopt such regulations and By-laws with regard to local matters and action as may be necessary, provided the same be not inconsistent with or contradictory to the principles, rules and regulations of this Association.

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